



A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 61st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
(Including Chino, Montclair, Ontario and Pomona)

June 2004

Happy 228th Birthday, USA

Dear friend,

July 4th is fast approaching and many of us are already planning on breaking out the BBQ grills or picnic baskets to celebrate.

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Independence Day is traditionally a time when we celebrate the origins of our freedom, our rights and responsibilities and pay tribute to the document that led to this grand experiment in democracy. The Fourth is not only a time to remember the freedoms and rights we enjoy as Americans, but also a time to reflect on the ways we might lose them.

This Fourth of July, we will be honoring those no longer among us; the celebration of our freedom will be tinged with sorrow as we reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country in such far-flung places as Afghanistan and Iraq. We will remember that this is a land where we are free to disagree. It is a fundamental part of our democracy that we are able to disagree with the policies of our government and work to change them, if we have the will and desire.

That certainly is worth celebrating.

Schedule of Local Events

Ontario: Parade 9 a.m. Sat., July 3 between 4th & B streets on Euclid. Craft show & picnic following the parade will be held near the bandstand area. Free July 4th festivities and fireworks will be held 5 p.m. at Westwind Park, 2425 Riverside Dr. Amusement rides and games will be available for a nominal charge as well.

Pomona: Kaboom Fourth of July Celebration Monster Truck and Big Air MotoX Extreme 8 p.m. Sun., July 4 at the Fairplex Park Grandstand, 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona followed by Fireworks Spectacular at 9:15 p.m. Cost: \$11 General Seating. For more info call (909) 623-3111.



FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Please stay safe as we celebrate the founding of our country.

No matter how many different ways we celebrate the Fourth of July, we usually finish it the same way everywhere – with fireworks. There is something about fireworks that appeals to practically everybody, especially children. To help you celebrate this Fourth of July safely, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety offer the following safety tips on the proper use of fireworks.

- **Never give fireworks to small children.**
- **Always read and follow label directions.**
- **Have an adult present.**
- **Buy from reliable fireworks sellers.**
- **Ignite outdoors and always have a bucket of water handy and ready access to a hose.**
- **Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks.**
- **Light one firework at a time.**
- **Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.**
- **Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.**
- **Dispose of used fireworks properly.**
- **Never throw fireworks at another person or at animals.**
- **Never carry fireworks in your pocket.**
- **Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.**
- **Follow the rules but have fun!**

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## **CHOOSING SAFE FIREWORKS**

Fireworks safety also includes knowing the difference between legal consumer fireworks and dangerous explosive devices.

It is extremely important to know items such as M-80's, M-100's, blockbusters, and quarterpounders are not fireworks, says the National Council on Fireworks Safety. These devices are explosives that have been federally banned since 1966. They can cause serious injury or even death, so do not buy or use them. Stay away from anything that is not clearly labeled with the name of the item, the manufacturer's name, and instructions for its proper use. If you are aware of anyone selling such devices, contact your nearest law enforcement agency.

Following are additional tips from the Council to further ensure a safe Fourth of July:

- **Fireworks are not toys.** Legal fireworks burn at approximately the same temperature as a household match and can cause burn injuries and ignite clothing if used improperly.
- **NEVER give fireworks to young children.** Close, adult supervision of all fireworks activities is mandatory.

- **Select and use only legal devices.** If you choose to celebrate the Fourth of July with fireworks, check with your local law enforcement agency to determine what fireworks, if any, can be legally discharged in your area.
- **Homemade fireworks are deadly.** Never attempt to make your own devices, or buy or use any kits that are advertised for making fireworks. Mixing and loading chemical powders is very dangerous and can kill or seriously injure you. Leave the making of fireworks to the experts.

## West Nile Virus found locally

West Valley Vector Control has confirmed the presence of West Nile Virus in Montclair. The virus turned up in samples from a mosquito pool collected at the Chino Valley Water Conservation District. According to a statement released by Vector Control, this is the first time the virus has been isolated from wild-caught mosquitoes in San Bernardino County. It is routinely detected first in birds.

Since the West Nile Virus is usually fatal for certain types of birds, Vector control is asking residents to report dead crows, ravens, magpies and scrub jays promptly to the State Dead Bird Hotline (877) 968-2473 or call Vector Control at (909) 627-0931

The best protection against West Nile Virus is to eliminate mosquito breeding and prevent being bitten by mosquitoes. To that end, residents are also being asked to report unmaintained swimming pools and spas and take other precautions such as:

- Eliminate pools of standing water
- Remove weeds from ponds and drainage ditches which can encourage mosquito breeding and impede control efforts
- Use insect repellent containing DEET, always following label directions
- Ensure window and door screens are in good condition
- Limit outdoor activities at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active
- Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants when outside
- For horse owners, a vaccine is available for equines. Consult with a veterinarian for information.

For additional information, contact West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at (909) 627-0931 or at [info@wvmosquito.org](mailto:info@wvmosquito.org)

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## “Juneteenth” Celebrated

Juneteenth, a holiday which marks the end of slavery in America, was celebrated Saturday, June 19 at Pomona’s Ganesha Park.

I was honored to co-sponsor the Juneteenth celebration, and with the Black Caucus, I presented organizers with a resolution in honor of the National Freedom Day.

The event was hugely successful; it was a beautiful warm day at Ganesha Park and participation was amazing.

Juneteenth has long been a day of celebration for African-Americans. The holiday takes its name from June 19, 1865, which is the day federal troops arrived in Galveston to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. Although the proclamation had taken effect January 1, 1863, very few slaves (if any) were actually freed at that time.

Texans received news of the proclamation well after the Confederate Army surrendered at Appomattox. At that time, many believed that the news was deliberately withheld to enable slave owners to bring in one last crop.

Others thought it was late because the messenger traveled on a mule, and still others thought the original messenger was murdered en route.

The news, when it finally arrived, was celebrated in great fashion.

Over the years Juneteenth festivals have evolved into daylong events that include picnics, parades, music, dancing and readings of the Emancipation Proclamation.

In 2002 I helped to pass Assembly Bill 1749, which designated that the third Saturday in June each year be declared Juneteenth -- Emancipation Day. This will be the first year that California officially celebrates "Juneteenth" on the third Saturday in the month of June. How very appropriate that it falls on the 19<sup>th</sup>.



## \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Unclaimed Property Forum \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

My District Office is hosting two mobile Unclaimed Property forums in July.

**On Friday, July 9 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. we will be at the Chino Senior Center, 13170 Central Avenue in Chino. On Friday, July 16 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. you will find us at the Ontario Senior Center, 225 East B Street, Ontario (in the computer lab).**

At our first Unclaimed Property forum, we were able to assist district residents to find more than \$40,000 in unclaimed property.

At the forum you can learn more about California's Unclaimed Property program and search the database to see if the state is holding any of your property. My staff will be on hand to assist in the search and with filing any claims on property that may result.

For more information, call my office at (909) 621-2783.

**Thought for July:**

***America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves. -Abraham Lincoln***

## Assemblymember Negrete McLeod's Committee Assignments

Chair, Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Committee  
Co-Chair, Legislative Ethics Committee  
Appropriations Committee  
Governmental Organization Committee  
Health Committee  
Higher Education Committee  
Business and Professions Committee  
Banking and Finance Committee

Chair, Select Committee on Alameda Corridor East  
Select Committee on CA Horse Racing Association  
Select Committee on Community Colleges  
Select Committee on Future of Farming in CA  
Select Committee on Gang Violence and Juvenile Crimes  
Select Committee on Groundwater Quality and Availability  
Select Committee on Rural Economic Development  
Select Committee on Water Management, Storage, Conservation and Supply

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Or visit my website at [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)

Please check out our new on-line legislative survey!

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